

**City of Bloomington  
Telecommunications Council  
Business Meeting – January 3, 2012**

**Common Council Chambers  
City Hall at the Showers Building  
401 N. Morton St.**

**I. Members Present:** Suzann Owen, Eric Ost, Carl Zager, & Duane Busick

**II. Public Comment**

Lennon Beasley \* He is still working on birthday production, hopes to have it completed by the end of January  
\*In December, produced 58 new programs.

**II. Approval of Minutes:**

Council did not receive a copy of the December minutes. Carl moved that the approval of December minutes be postponed until the February 7<sup>th</sup> meeting. Eric seconded the motion. Question was called for and all approved.

Carl moved to amend the agenda, between items #5 & 6, titled old business. Suzann seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**IV. Reports and Announcements**

**1. Telecom Members:**

**Suzann** \*with the upcoming session of the Indiana General Assembly, at this point there is nothing on the agenda being dealt with in relation to telecommunications.  
\*FCC is down to 3 members, business can't be done without a quorum  
\*This will be Suzann's last meeting. She is not seeking re-appointment. She has served for eight years.  
The council thanks her for her service.

**2. CATS – Michael White**

- Thank you to Suzann for her years of service.
- Thank you to Martin O'Neil for doing the minutes in December.
- Monthly programming
- The county, city, and library are cooperatively purchasing some large pieces of gear that will reside at the telecom hotel for conveyance of meetings, and community events.
- Thank you to the Monroe County Council for support in approving the public libraries ability to bond for these projects over the next few years. This will help with the move to HD.

**3. WTIU –No Report**

**V. Information from or about Video Service Provider – No Report**

**Old Business**

**Carl** – We have a postponed motion on the table from December:

The telecommunications council will sponsor and coordinate the creation of a group to study the legal economics and technical feasibility of building a broadband system using the city's existing and planned fiber as well as building out additional infra-structure.

The group would investigate the following:

- \*evaluate broadband technologies that might be used in a public network.
- \*combination of copper, fiber, and wireless
- \*evaluate the option of the city creating a utility
- \*to explore the feasibility of strategic public benefit of public/private partnership for the build-out.

- \*evaluate the feasibility of a community staffed co-up/workforce project to build-out the fiber to the home infer-structure.
- \*consider the feasibility or the ability of the city building a public broadband network only providing wholesale data transport services.

This group would report to the telecommunications Council. The report would be reviewed and adopted for presentation to the city council, administration, and public.

(Motion was read from the minutes that were posted on the city's website)

**Eric** – There are some changes to that motion that is not exactly what I read.

**Carl** – My concern and support for the motion was based upon my personal concern about the future of public, education, and government channels. We need to demonstrate to the state and communities, but also represent the citizens of Bloomington by having a facility that provides the kind of information and access that CATS and WTU provide.

**Suzann** – My complaint last month was that we did not have it before us. We had not followed all the steps to re-constitute ourselves. Because we are still very much in limbo, this motion is simply limited to broadband system. Do we need to think broader or a least look at parallel groups already dealing with aspects of telecommunication?

**Carl** – EAS is a separate issue. The most important and critical issue is studying whether or not the City of Bloomington in a very real way can look at building something that emulate the current product of video service providers but specifically aimed at public, educational, and government information.

**Carl moved to amend the first sentence to read:**

Telecommunications Council will sponsor and coordinate the creation of a group to study the legal, economic, and technical feasibility of building a system using the city's existing and planned fiber as well as build out additional infrastructure, and any other new or emerging technology.

**Suzann** – 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion to amend the first sentence of the proposal.  
Questioned called on the amendment, all were in favor.

**Suzann** – It would be useful and also standard practice to include something about how the study group would be constituted. Identify the level of expertise involved in the group. No names, no specifics!

**Eric** – I don't want to limit participation.

**Carl moved that the bullet point's paragraph be amended to read as follows:**

The group will investigate but not be limited to items such as the following:

**Duane** – 2<sup>nd</sup> the second amendment to bullet points paragraph.  
Question was called, all were in favor.

**After amendments, final proposal reads as following:**

The Telecommunications Council will sponsor and coordinate the creation of a group to study legal, economic, and technical feasibility of building a system using the city's existing and planned fiber as well as building out additional infrastructure using new and emerging technologies.

The group will investigate and evaluate but not be limited to items such as the following:

- Broadband technologies that might be used in a public network such as fiber to the home, hybrid copper/fiber, wireless, and any other such technologies; the option of the city creating a utility.
- The feasibility of a strategic public benefit of a public/private partnership for implementation of the network.
- The feasibility of a community staffed co-op/work-force project to build out the network.

- The feasibility or ability of the city to provide a whole-sale data transport service thru a public broadband network.

**Carl** – What are your suggestions for the constitution of the group?

Suggestions:

- Any interested citizen
- Use resources by placing an ad in the newspaper
- Volunteer group
- Broad representation
- Not limited in size
- Any US citizen

**Carl motioned to include the constitution amendment for the group. Duane 2<sup>nd</sup>. Question called, all in favor.**

**Constitution reads:**

The group will be a broad representation of the community, open to anyone wishing to participate, and will not be limited in size. The group will organize its structure at its initial meeting. The Telecommunications Council will be available to offer assistance.

**Carl motioned for the final amendment:**

The group will report to the Telecommunications Council. The report will be reviewed and adopted for presentation to the City Council, the administration and the public.

**Duane seconded the motion. Question was called for, all in favor.**

**Carl** – At the February meeting, we put together some structure of putting this group together.

- look at options for publicizing
- look at resources and funding
- what will the initial presentation to the community look like
- possibly produce a program for CATS.

## **VI. New Business**

## **VII. Adjournment**

A motion was made by Eric that the meeting be adjourned.

### **Next Regular Meeting**

February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012

Common Council Chambers in City Hall at the Showers Building  
401 N. Morton St.

Submitted by:

Stephanie Jachim 1/29/2012